

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to define the laminate with greater precision. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the laminate comprising two or more magnetic metal thin plates has each magnetic metal thin plate "being selected from the group consisting of an amorphous metal plate and a nano crystal magnetic plate..." Thus, the two or more magnetic metal thin plates are independently selected from an amorphous metal plate and a nano crystal magnetic plate.

The present Amendment also adds new claims 15 and 16 which parallel claims 1 and 2, but claim 15 recites that the laminate comprising two or more magnetic metal thin plates has each magnetic metal thin plate "being selected from the group consisting of a nano crystal magnetic plate and silicon steel sheet..." Thus, for this claim, the two or more magnetic metal thin plates are independently selected from a nano crystal magnetic plate and a silicon steel sheet. For both of the defined embodiments, it is to be understood that as long as the laminate has the two or more of the defined magnetic metal thin plates, the laminate can include other types of plates within the structure.

The amended claims are patentable over the prior art of record, particularly the combination of Pettigrew et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,960,651, in view of Jin et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,106,163. As set forth in the Official Action dated April 17, 2008, the Examiner has maintained that Pettigrew et al. meets the claimed laminate by disclosing the combination of an amorphous metal and stainless steel. While applicants believe that the claims formerly of record were clearly patentable over the prior art for the reasons of record, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, claims have been presented which do not include the combination of

amorphous metal and a silicon steel sheet. Thus, even assuming that the Examiner can assert that a stainless steel sheet meets a silicon steel sheet, the claims of record do not encompass such a combination of two materials.

With respect to claim 2 and new claim 16, applicants note that the recited range of volume resistivity is below the range of volume resistivity disclosed on Fig. 4. of Jin et al. Moreover, Jin et al. would actually lead away from this aspect of the invention by disclosing in the passage at column 8, lines 38-41:

When a mixed soft magnetic material has a low volume resistivity, grains composing the mixed soft magnetic material are not insulated well, so that eddy-current is easily induced by an ac magnetic field. Thus, the intended transmission efficiency of a transformer cannot be attained.

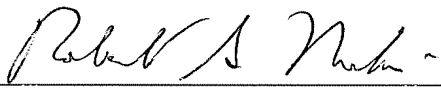
Accordingly, this aspect of the invention is further patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the claims now of record and the foregoing discussion, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable in all regards and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Applicants further request rejoinder of dependent method claims 6-8 in the instant national stage application, and pursuant to the provisions of MPEP §821.04(b).

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application,
the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number
provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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